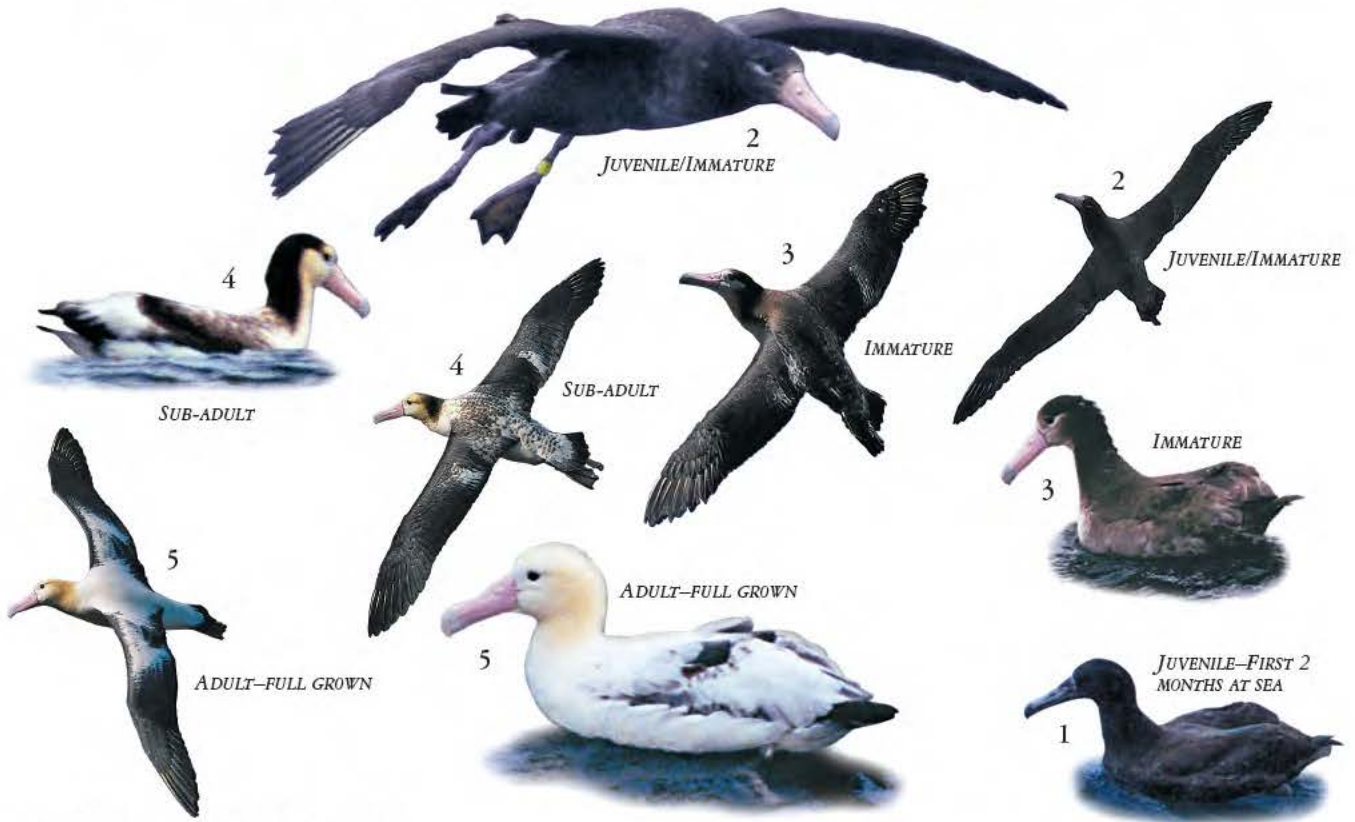


North Pacific Albatrosses



SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS



BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS



LAYSAN ALBATROSS

Identification of Live Birds:

Please match numbers with photos on front.
Bill outlines are life-size for positive identification.

SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS

(1) SHORT-TAILED, Juvenile

First two months at sea

Similarities

- Difficult to distinguish; completely brown body and wings, dark bill and legs

Differences

- Large, light gray bill with traces of pink
- Smaller dark gray bill
- White on face at base of bill

Note: Bill of young short-tailed albatross changes to pink probably within its first two months at sea. It departs from nest mid-May to early June.

(2) SHORT-TAILED, Juvenile/Immature

- Confusion with other species unlikely at this stage
- Completely brown body and wings
- Large pink bill
- Pale legs (sometimes dark)

(3) SHORT-TAILED, Immature

Similarities

- Brown body, some white on chest and face

Differences

- Large pink bill
- Pale legs
- Brown rump and undertail
- Brown wings with white patches on upperwings
- Smaller dark bill
- Dark legs
- White rump and undertail
- Wings all brown

(4) SHORT-TAILED, Sub-adult

Similarities

- Pink bill (Laysan bill varies yellowish to pinkish-beige)
- White body with brown back
- Pale legs

Differences

- Dark cap on back of head/neck
- Brown and white upperwings
- Lacks eye patch
- Back more mottled brown
- White head/neck
- Brown back and upperwings
- Dark gray eye patch

Note: Can breed at this stage.

(5) SHORT-TAILED, Adult-full grown

Similarities

- Pink bill (Laysan bill varies yellowish to pinkish beige)
- White body
- Pale legs

Differences

- White head/neck with yellow tinge
- White back
- Brown and white upperwings
- Lacks eye patch
- White head/neck without yellow tinge
- Brown back and upperwings
- Dark gray eye patch

BLACK-FOOTED AND LAYSAN ALBATROSS

(6) BLACK-FOOTED, Juvenile

GENERAL DESCRIPTIONS

Short-tailed Albatross

Phoebastria albatrus

Can occur anywhere in the North Pacific Ocean during ALL months. Currently less than 200 breeding pairs. Multiple threats throughout its range require international cooperation to prevent its extinction. During various stages, can be confused with black-footed and Laysan albatrosses. Full grown chicks completely brown; dark legs; large bill grayish with pink traces (1). Not known exactly when *bill develops distinctive pink color* (2) but thought to occur during first two months at sea. As they mature, legs become pale; white patches replace brown plumage (3 and 4). Eventually exhibits nearly all-white body; white head and neck with yellow tinge; *white and dark brown wings; white back* (5).

Breeds: Japan

Estimated breeding pairs: 180

Black-footed Albatross

Phoebastria nigripes

Mostly brown throughout its life and *always has white at base of dark bill* (6 and 7). Dark legs. Develops a *white rump* and more white on the face and chest as it matures (7).

Breeds: Hawaiian Islands, Japan

Estimated breeding pairs: 71,000

Laysan Albatross

Phoebastria immutabilis

A white-bodied albatross, like the adult short-tailed albatross, but *solid dark brown from wing tip to wing tip on upper side; dark back* (8). Pink bill but can vary. Legs pale. Plumage colors do not change.

Breeds: Hawaiian Islands, Japan, Mexico

Estimated breeding pairs: 630,000

OTHER FACTS

Albatrosses are adult-size when they leave the nest and spend their first several years at sea. They mate for life. Both sexes of these three species raise a single chick annually, which takes 5 to 6 months. If one parent is killed, the chick also dies and the mate is not replaced for up to three years. These three species have an approximate 7-foot wingspan and range across the entire North Pacific Ocean. They can live 40 years or more.

Please report sightings of short-tailed albatrosses to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: 1-800-272-4174. The only way of knowing the short-tailed albatross' age is from leg bands placed on them as chicks. By reporting the following information, you are contributing to the knowledge of this endangered seabird's pelagic range: 1) Date and time 2) Vessel's position 3) Plumage characteristics 4) The leg-band color combinations (both right and left leg)

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North
Pacific
Longline
Association



SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS

Female

BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS

Male

Female

LAYSAN ALBATROSS

Male